

Amendment

In response to the Office Action dated January 22, 2001, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claim 12 as follows. A marked-up copy of Claim 12 showing the changes made thereto, is attached. Note that all the claims currently pending in this application, including those not presently being amended, have been reproduced below for the Examiner's convenience.

2. (Unamended) A zoom lens according to Claim 13, wherein, when said number NL2 of lens elements is $NL2=1$, the following condition is satisfied:

$$50 < vP$$

where vP is an Abbe number of a material of lens elements constituting said second lens unit.

3. (Unamended) A zoom lens according to Claim 13, wherein, when said number NL2 of lens elements is $NL2 = 2$, said second lens unit consists of, in order from the object side to the image side, a positive lens of bi-convex form and a negative lens having a concave surface of stronger refractive power facing the image side than that of an opposite surface thereof.

4. (Unamended) A zoom lens according to Claim 13, wherein, when said number NL2 of lens elements is NL2=3, said second lens unit has a negative lens of meniscus form concave toward the image side.

5. (Unamended) A zoom lens according to Claim 13, wherein said first lens unit consists of two negative lenses of meniscus form convex toward the object side and a positive lens of meniscus form convex toward the object side, and said second lens unit consists of a positive lens of bi-convex form and a negative lens having a concave surface facing the image side.

6. (Unamended) A zoom lens according to Claim 13, wherein said first lens unit consists of two negative lenses of meniscus form convex toward the object side and a positive lens of meniscus form convex toward the object side, and said second lens unit consists of a positive lens of meniscus form convex toward the object side.

7. (Unamended) A zoom lens according to Claim 13, wherein said first lens unit consists of two negative lenses of meniscus form convex toward the object side and a positive lens of meniscus form convex toward the object side, and said second lens unit consists of a positive lens of bi-convex form, a negative lens of meniscus form convex toward the object side and a positive lens of bi-convex form.

8. (Unamended) A zoom lens according to Claim 13, wherein said first lens unit consists of a positive lens of bi-convex form, two negative lenses of meniscus form convex toward the

object side and a positive lens of meniscus form convex toward the object side, and said second lens unit consists of a positive lens of bi-convex form and a negative lens having a concave surface facing the image side.

9. (Unamended) A zoom lens according to Claim 13, wherein said first lens unit consists of positive lens of bi-convex form, two negative lenses of meniscus form convex toward the object side and a positive lens of meniscus form convex toward the object side, and said second lens unit consists of a positive lens of bi-convex form, a negative lens of meniscus form convex toward the object side and a positive lens of bi-convex form.

10. (Unamended) A zoom lens according to Claim 13, wherein said first lens unit consists of a positive lens of bi-convex form, two negative lenses of meniscus form convex toward the object side and a positive lens of meniscus form convex toward the object side, and said second lens unit consists of a positive lens of bi-convex form, a positive lens of meniscus form convex toward the object side, a negative lens of bi-concave form and a positive lens of bi-convex form.

11. (Unamended) A zoom lens according to Claim 13, wherein said first lens unit consists of a positive lens of bi-convex form, two negative lenses of meniscus form convex toward the object side and a positive lens of meniscus form convex toward the object side, and said second lens unit consists of a positive lens of bi-convex form.

12. (Amended) A photographing apparatus comprising:

a zoom lens according to one of Claims 2 to 11 and 13 to 33; and

an image pickup element provided on an image plane of said zoom lens.

13. (Unamended) A zoom lens comprising, in order from an object side to an image side,

a first lens unit of negative refractive power, located closer to the object side than any lens units of the zoom lens,

an aperture stop,

a second lens unit of positive refractive power,

wherein the separation between the first lens unit and the second lens unit is varied during zooming, and the following condition is satisfied:

$$3 \leq NL1 \leq 4$$

$$NL2 \leq NL1$$

wherein NL1 and NL2 are the numbers of lens elements comprising the first lens unit and the second lens unit respectively.

14. (Unamended) A zoom lens according to Claim 13, wherein the aperture stop moves during the zooming.

15. (Unamended) A zoom lens according to Claim 14, wherein the aperture stop moves unitedly with the second lens unit.

16. (Unamended) A zoom lens according to Claim 13, wherein the first lens unit has two negative lens elements, one of which, having a smaller diameter, has an aspherical surface.

17. (Unamended) A zoom lens according to Claim 13, wherein the second lens unit consists of two lens elements, and has an aspherical surface both on a lens surface closest to the object side and a lens surface closest to the image side.

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18. (Unamended) A zoom lens according to Claim 13, wherein the second lens unit consists of one lens element and has an aspherical surface both on a lens surface closest to the object side and a lens surface closest to the image side.

19. (Unamended) A zoom lens according to Claim 13, wherein the second lens unit consists of three lens elements, and has an aspherical surface on a lens surface closest to the object side.

Please add Claims 20 to 33 as follows.

C2
20. (New) A zoom lens according to Claim 13, wherein said first lens unit has a positive lens element located closest to the object side.

21. (New) A zoom lens according to Claim 13, wherein said first lens unit consists of two positive lens elements and two negative lens elements.

22. (New) A zoom lens according to Claim 13, wherein said first lens unit consists of, in order from the object side to the image side, a positive lens element, a negative lens element, a negative lens element and a positive lens element.

23. (New) A zoom lens according to Claim 22, wherein said second lens unit consists of three positive lens elements and a negative lens element.

24. (New) A zoom lens according to ~~Claim 22~~, wherein said second lens unit consists of, in order from the object side to the image side, a positive lens element, a positive lens element, a negative lens element and a positive lens element.

25. (New) A zoom lens according to Claim 13, wherein said second lens unit consists of three positive lens elements and a negative lens element.

26. (New) A zoom lens according to Claim 13, wherein said second lens unit consists of, in order from the object side to the image side, a positive lens element, a positive lens element, a negative lens element and a positive lens element.

27. (New) A zoom lens comprising, in order from an object side to an image side, a first lens unit of negative refractive power, located closer to the object side than any lens units of the zoom lens, said first lens unit having a positive lens element located closest to the object side; and

a second lens unit of positive refractive power,
wherein the separation between the first lens unit and the second lens unit is varied
during zooming, and following condition is satisfied:

$$3 \leq NL1 \leq 4$$

$$NL2 \leq NL1$$

wherein NL1 and NL2 are the numbers of lens elements comprising the first lens unit
and the second lens unit, respectively.

28. (New) A zoom lens comprising, in order from an object side to an image side,
a first lens unit of negative refractive power, located closer to the object side than any
lens units of the zoom lens, said first lens unit consisting of two positive lens elements and two
negative lens elements; and

a second lens unit of positive refractive power,
wherein the separation between the first lens unit and the second lens unit is varied
during zooming, and the following condition is satisfied:

$$3 \leq NL1 \leq 4$$

$$NL2 \leq NL1$$

wherein NL1 and NL2 are the numbers of lens elements comprising the first lens unit
and the second lens unit, respectively.

29. (New) A zoom lens comprising, in order from an object side to an image side,
a first lens unit of negative refractive power, located closer to the object side than any
lens units of the zoom lens, said first lens unit consisting of, in order from the object side to the
image side, a positive lens element, a negative lens element, a negative lens element and a
positive lens element; and

a second lens unit of positive refractive power,
wherein the separation between the first lens unit and the second lens unit is varied
during zooming, and the following condition is satisfied:

$$3 \leq NL1 \leq 4$$

$$NL2 \leq NL1$$

wherein NL1 and NL2 are the numbers of lens elements comprising the first lens unit
and the second lens unit, respectively.

30. (New) A zoom lens according to ~~Claim 29~~, wherein said second lens unit consists of
three positive lens elements and a negative lens element.

2.
31. (New) A zoom lens according to ~~Claim 29~~, wherein said second lens unit consists
of, in order from the object side to the ~~image side~~, a positive lens element, a positive lens
element, a negative lens element and a positive lens element.

32. (New) A zoom lens comprising, in order from an object side to an image side,

a first lens unit of negative refractive power, located closer to the object side than any lens units of the zoom lens,

a second lens unit of positive refractive power, said second lens unit consisting of three positive lens elements and a negative lens element,

wherein the separation between the first lens unit and the second lens unit is varied during zooming, and the following condition is satisfied:

$$3 \leq NL1 \leq 4$$

$$NL2 \leq NL1$$

wherein NL1 and NL2 are the numbers of lens elements comprising the first lens unit and the second lens unit, respectively.

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3b. (New) A zoom lens comprising, in order from an object side to an image side,

a first lens unit of negative refractive power, located closer to the object side than any lens units of the zoom lens,

a second lens unit of positive refractive power, said second lens unit consisting of, in order from the object side to the image side, a positive lens element, a positive lens element, a negative lens element and a positive lens element,

wherein the separation between the first lens unit and the second lens unit is varied during zooming, and the following condition is satisfied:

$$3 \leq NL1 \leq 4$$

$$NL2 \leq NL1$$